

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408



MAY 14 1975

Mr. Howard Roffman
912 SW 7th Avenue, Apt. 3
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Mr. Roffman:

This is in reply to your letter of April 27, 1975, concerning the recent examination of the x-rays and photographs relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy by the Rockefeller Commission.

The following information is in reply to your questions:

1. The examination was made under the authority of the deed of gift of the autopsy materials and clothing by the Kennedy family, which provides that the materials may be examined by persons authorized to act for a Committee of Congress, a Presidential Commission, or any other official agency of the Federal Government having authority to investigate matters relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. Mr. Burke Marshall was notified that the proposed examination was to be made, and he did not object or specifically agree to the examination.
2. The examination occurred on April 18, 1975, for about six hours.
3. The Zapruder, Nix, and Muchmore films, the Zapruder slides, the bullet (CE 399), and bullet fragments recovered after the assassination, the autopsy report, the "memorandum of transfer" of the autopsy materials dated April 26, 1965, the autopsy x-rays and photographs, Governor Connally's x-rays, and President Kennedy's clothing were made available to the panel. The panel made no requests which were refused on any basis and made no requests for any materials not in the National Archives.
4. All members of the panel were present during all phases of the examination except that Dr. Olivier left before the examination of the clothing. Also present were Mr. David W. Belin, Executive Director, and Mr. Robert Olson, General Counsel, of the Commission; Mr. Marion M. Johnson, the National Archives staff member in charge of the material; and Mr. Frank Shelbourne, a stenotypist from the reporting firm of Ward and Paul, who was present to take testimony.

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5. No one connected with the Rockefeller Commission has requested or been furnished copies of the autopsy x-rays and photographs or any photograph of the President's clothing not published by the Warren Commission or the FBI. The Commission was furnished copies of the deed of gift of the clothing, x-rays, and photographs and the report of the 1968 panel to the Attorney General concerning the autopsy materials.
6. The examination was made pursuant to the deed of gift of the autopsy materials. The provision of the deed of gift for a determination by Mr. Burke Marshall of the qualifications of those who wish to examine the autopsy materials applies only to private researchers.
7. No arrangements were made or requested for viewing the Zapruder film in slow motion. The film was shown backwards but not in slow motion. The panel spent about an hour and a half viewing the Zapruder slides.

No reports or written documents prepared by the panel have been furnished to the National Archives.

Sincerely,

James E. O'Neill
JAMES E. O'NEILL
Acting Archivist
of the United States